

HOLDREGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

March 2011

Dates to Remember

- **Wednesday, March 2:**
Lifetouch Spring Pictures at all Elementary Schools
- **Friday, March 4:**
NO SCHOOL-Spring Break
- **Monday, March 7:**
Dismiss at 1:30 p.m.
- **Tuesday, March 8**
Dismiss at 1:30 pm-
Parent/Teacher Conf.
4-8 p.m.
- **Wednesday, March 9:**
Dismiss at 1:30 pm-
Parent/Teacher Conf.
2-6 p.m./End of 3rd Qtr.
- **Thursday, March 10 &
Friday, March 11:**
NO SCHOOL-Spring
Break
- **Thursday, March 17:**
6:00 p.m.-R7 Elementary
Vocal Concert
- **Thursday, March 31:**
7:00 p.m.-K-2 Elementary
Vocal Concert for Wash-
ington and Franklin
- **Thursday, April 7:**
7:00 p.m.-3-4 Elementary
Vocal Concert for Wash-
ington and Franklin

Mailing address for all elementary schools:

PO Box 2002
Holdrege, NE 68949

Phone Numbers:

Washington: 995-4339

Franklin: 995-4269

R-7: 995-6179

Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher Conferences for all Elementary schools are scheduled for Tuesday, March 8th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday, March 9th from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is a change from the original calendar. The elementary will dismiss at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 7th, Tuesday, March 8th and Wednesday, March 9th. There will be no school on Friday, March 4th, Thursday, March 10th and Friday, March 11th.

Classroom teachers will be sending home sign-up forms closer to the time of conferences. Please be watching for these in your child's things.

Kindergarten Information

The Holdrege Elementary schools are preparing for the kindergarten class of 2011-12. An informational meeting was held on February 8th, but it's not too late to contact us about enrolling your child for the upcoming school year. If you have a child, or know of a child, who will be 5 years old by October 15, 2011, please call Washington Elementary at 995-4339 to register. We are keeping the kindergarten list at a central location for planning purposes. Your child's attendance center will be determined at a later date.

Kindergarten Visitation (formerly called roundup) will be held on Wednesday, April 13 for the entire district. Even if you did not attend the informational meeting, you are encouraged to participate in Kindergarten Roundup. This is an important time for your child to experience what kindergarten will be like, meet the teachers, and for parents to ask questions and complete the enrollment process.

Varicella (Chicken Pox) Immunization Change

Before the 2011-12 school year starts in August, all students (K-12) will need to have two Varicella immunizations or have on file a waiver indicating the month and year your child had the disease. This requirement is effective July 1, 2011. Please be sure to make arrangements to have your child immunized before the start of the school year.

Elementary Music Programs

Please be sure to mark your calendars for the elementary music programs coming up. All elementary students at



R7 will present their concert on Thursday, March 17th at 6:00 p.m.

On Thursday, March 31st the kindergarten, first, and second grade students from Washington and Franklin Elementary will perform their concert at 7:00 p.m.

Third and fourth grade students from Washington and Franklin will present their concert on Thursday, April 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Miss Bislow and Mrs. Butler will be sending more information home with students closer to their concert dates.

PARENTS WITH CHILDREN WHO ATTEND LIL' DUSTERS PRESCHOOL:

There will be NO PRESCHOOL on Thursday, April 7th.

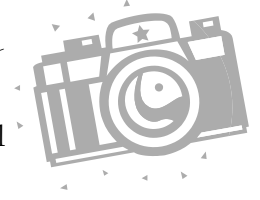
Lifetouch Spring Pictures

Lifetouch will be at all the elementary schools on March 2nd to take Spring pictures. These work differently than our Fall pictures because there is no pre-ordering. Families will receive a packet of pictures of your child several weeks afterwards to look at and decide if you would like to purchase any or all of them.

If you choose to purchase any or all of the pictures in the packet, you will need to send the appropriate payment to the school, along with any picture sheets you do not want to purchase.

Students who do not purchase any pictures but do not return their packets to their school will not be able to receive their final report cards until it is turned in.

There are no re-takes or a make-up date for these pictures. If your child is not in school on March 2nd, you will not receive a spring picture packet this year.



Summer School

Summer school will again be offered for students who will be finishing kindergarten through fourth grade this year. Summer school will begin on Monday, May 23rd and run through Friday, June 10th. There will be no summer school on Monday, May 30th for Memorial Day. More information about this program will be sent home in the future.

Elementary Book Fair

The spring elementary book fair will be held at Washington and R-7 in the media centers on the following days:

- March 8: 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. & 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- March 9: 8:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. & 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Anyone is welcome to visit and purchase books for your child.

Kindergarten Cutoff Age Change

The Nebraska State Legislature passed a law last year that changes the cutoff age for incoming kindergarten students for the 2012-13 school year (not this upcoming school year). Children enrolling in kindergarten for the 2012-13 school year will need to turn five (5) years old by July 31, 2012 of that year to be eligible for enrollment.

Illness

With the colder weather comes an increase in illness. Patsy Johnson, our interim school nurse, reminds all parents that if your child has a fever of 100 or above, flu-like symptoms, vomiting, or diarrhea, he/she needs to stay home from school. Also, if your child has a fever, it needs to be normal without taking Tylenol or ibuprofen (Motrin) for 24 hours before coming back to school. Please consult your Student-Parent Handbook for more detailed information about illnesses and attending school.

Absences

If your child is going to be absent, please let either the office or classroom teacher know as soon as possible. If your child is sick, please call the school office by 8:00 am. Wednesday is the day that we report to Two Rivers Health Department how many students are absent from school due to illness and what the symptoms are. Please let us know your child's symptoms when you call in an absence. Your help is appreciated.

In the Classroom...

Mrs. Klein—Resource/Language—R7 & Washington

Whoosh, February blew in and out so fast...Can you believe it is March! We can't believe how fast time has gone. All of the students are working so hard on improving their reading skills. At R7 Elementary, I work with students from Kindergarten through 4th grade for Reading and Language. The classes I teach use the Sonday System (researched based reading curriculum) and the classroom reading materials. With a little bit of travel time, I have had the opportunity to work with the 4th grade students at Washington Elementary in small groups on reading strategies. These groups are working well together. When the students display the use of strategies they have learned, when they read, it makes a person smile, to hear such wonderful reading!! Students are doing amazingly well in the "word work" or "lesson maps."

Mrs. Breinig—1st Grade—Washington

Wow! It is hard to believe we have been in school over 100 days. In first grade we had a celebration for our 100th day of school. We did a lot of math activities with 100. In science we have finished our 5 senses and will be learning about the human body. In March we will study bodies of water and the animals that live in each water group. We will also learn the 3 R's (reduce, reuse, recycle), the extension club will come to our classroom and show us how to make paper from recycled paper.

We have started a new reading program this year. It has been exciting to see the improvements in student reading. Now that the year is half over your child should be reading independently 15 minutes each night. I can really see the improvement in the students who are reading at home each night!

Mrs. Gustafson—Title—Franklin

Are you looking for a simple activity you can do at home to improve your child's reading skills? Try "Paired Reading!" Paired Reading is a form of choral reading done by parent and child. If you follow these simple steps at home, you should see improvement in your child's reading ability:

- Find books that are at your child's "instructional level" which means no more than about one or two words out of ten are difficult for your child.
- Read aloud TOGETHER while your child points to the words with his/her finger. (Both your voice and your child's voice should be reading aloud at the same time.)
- When your child gets "stuck" on a word, simply tell your child the correct pronunciation while pointing to the word, and have your child do the same, then continue reading.
- It is beneficial to read the same stories many times over!
- If you want results, do this Paired Reading daily for 10-20 minutes per day for six consecutive weeks.



RESEARCH SHOWS: Six to ten weeks of paired reading showed a six month gain in reading achievement!

Mrs. Cox—Kindergarten—Franklin

Hooray for the 100th day of school! The big day finally arrived on January 31st and the kindergartners celebrated this milestone "Western Style!" In preparation for this day, we diligently added one straw each day to our Place Value Pockets during calendar time. Our class certainly was excited when we FINALLY had ten bundles of ten straws each to make a HUNDRED! Our 100th Day Celebration included decorating a cowboy/cowgirl hat with 100 stickers, making yummy "Hundreds Day Hash" by counting out 10 pretzels, 10 marshmallows, 10 M&Ms, etc. until we had 100 pieces in our bag, swinging a pretend lasso 100 times and galloping for 100 seconds. It was a very special day for all and yes... we are now officially 100 days smarter!!

In our first 100 days, the kindergartners have learned many new skills and concepts in reading, math, science, and social studies. (Have you heard your kindergartner read lately? They are making wonderful gains!) Moreover, we are also learning valuable social skills to help us be responsible and respectful students who are kind and helpful to others. 100 days of school, 100 days of learning, playing, and growing in so many ways...and this is only the beginning for the kindergartners!

Mrs. Larson—2nd Grade—Franklin

Is it spring or is it still winter? Every morning when we do our calendar and weather, we wonder if it will be below freezing or warm enough to go without jackets! We've been learning some new sign language to go along with the new words we're using to describe the weather!

For our writing this month, we did a research paper on dinosaurs. We came up with three questions we wanted to know about the dinosaur we picked. We used books from our library and a computer website to do the research to find the answers. Then we put it all together in a paper. We had to have a topic sentence, three facts about dinosaurs, and a conclusion. It was fun, but it also made us think about how to turn a question and answer into a statement.

We've enjoyed our social studies units a lot. We've enjoyed learning about Martin Luther King Jr. and Abraham Lincoln and George Washington. We've learned some about how our government works, too! We're looking forward to finishing off the year on a strong note, with improved reading skills, language arts skills, and new math skills. We should be ready for third grade!